

ABSTRACT

5 A method and system for evaluating a set of credentials
that includes at least one group credential and that may
include one or more additional credentials. A trust rating
is provided in association with the at least one group
credential within the set of credentials and trust ratings
may also be provided in other credentials within the set of
credentials. Each trust rating provides an indication of
10 the level of confidence in the information being certified
in the respective credential. In response to a request for
access to a resource or service, an evaluation of the group
credentials is performed by an access control program to
determine whether access to the requested resource or
15 service should be provided. In one embodiment, within any
given certification path a composite trust rating for the
respective path is determined. An overall trust rating for
the set of credentials is determined based upon the
composite trust ratings. Upon a determination that a user
20 requesting access to a resource has an acceptable set of
credentials and a satisfactory trust rating, access to the
requested resource or service is granted to the user.

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